

1846

A LECTURE ON
THE FUTURE OF CANADA;
BY DR. BOVELL.

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A LECTURE ON THE FUTURE OF CANADA;

DELIVERED BY DR. BOVELL, BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND
MANUFACTURES OF LOWER CANADA.

GENTLEMEN:

BELIEVE me when I say that I address you this evening with considerable diffidence, not only because the subject is foreign to my immediate pursuits, but for the reason that it is one of the most important which could engage the attention of the philanthropist and statesman; the latter I cannot pretend to be. Cold and lifeless must that breast be which refuses to beat in response to his country's welfare: dead to all the noblest feelings of human nature the man who sits down in stolid indifference to the condition of the soil to which he is attached. Fortunately such a state of apathy cannot be charged to any who have Canada for their home. Descendants of two European nations, we meet on this northern land, the chivalrous sons of France and the dauntless freeman of the British Isles; both grasping the same banner, and worthy of the parent stock from which they sprang; winning for religion and to civilization the forest home of the heathen and benighted children of a race, who, long lapsed in ignorance, know not the riches of the vast territory over which they roam, and are unequal to the task of developing its great resources. Here, then, on this glorious land, destiny has joined us brethren! Here, on this reclaimed wilderness, the red-crossed flag floats freely to the breeze, uniting in one bond of Christian Brotherhood, those who were once disjoined: binding with the cords of a mutual, a common interest, those who, in other climes, seemed to have no elements of cohesion. The Union has been accomplished, and, although for a time, the natural peculiarities and habits of dissimilar people prevented, or rather retarded the process of amalgamation, the commercial necessities and geographical homogeneity of the soil, are exercising their legitimate influence, and already we see the lines of demarkation becoming dim—the process of fusion fast going on. It is no matter of surprise that the heart clings fondly to the associations of its earliest days. Dare we quarrel with that affection which binds man tenderly to the hearth, by the glow of whose fire all the best and holiest feelings of his nature had been fanned

into life? On what spot in all this world beside would the Irish knee bend more devoutly, and where would the warm feeling of his soul gush more freely than at those time-hallowed shrines before which he was wont to linger? What mountain slopes and shadowy glens would the foot of the home-loving Highlander press with the same earnest deep attachment as those which, in the dawn of life he was wont to step; as among the heather he roved the clansman of a noble clan.— And if the children of Erin and Scotia's sons retain their love, shall not old England live in her children's hearts—be their roof tree raised beneath a summer or a winter sky? But sacred as such feelings are, it should be remembered that they are not more so than those which bind each one to his own home. The son remembers forever with reverential love the house of his infancy, but learns in manhood's years to be proud of his own, when he, in turn, becomes the sire of a rising race. Therefore, we should recollect that so long as each one moves within the compass of that wide domain which his forefathers has won, so long does he tread no foreign soil. Britons we are, in this British land—the heirs of British freedom, truth, and virtue, and most truly British when we lay claim to all that in the parent-state commands and ensures those very qualities which has made them what they are. What, shall it be said that within the compass of those sea-girt Isles—those Islands of the blest—is contained our nation? Will you, whose hard fate it may have been to leave all that was dear to you allow that when you left your native soil, the white sails bore you away aliens and outcasts from your country? The proud spirit which sent you forth to people these very wastes, rebels against injustice such as this. In a less enlightened age, ere the principles of good government were understood, and when ignorance and avarice awayed the minds of national authorities, there can be no doubt that the emigrant left behind him half his birth-right, ceasing to occupy his place within the limits of the Imperial shores, he found himself a colonist in a foreign plantation. No longer English, Irish or Scotch, he was classed as the West India plant-

er, the Australian wool-grower or the Canadian settler, who might toil and labor as heartily as he pleased provided he did so according to prescribed Colonial rule. These foreign possessions and plantations were won by the conqueror's sword and the price of the conquest must be repaid, the intention of the conquest satisfied. The £ s. d. of the commercial glutton, must be sent to satisfy the greed of conquerors. This is no exaggerated picture. Most of us can well remember the harsh and selfish policy which has but too often sorely taxed the loyal and devoted, and we live within sight of a Nation who were once like ourselves "Colonists"—but who, in consequence of the mad injustice of the Imperial State, broke from their allegiance. Canada! noble impetuous Canada still clings lovingly to her mother's side and still proud of her name desires no higher privilege, demands no greater boon than that which she may fairly claim, to be one of a united family. When distance constituted an all important element in questions affecting the interests of countries and individuals, we might find excuse for much of the ignorance and blundering which is so notorious in all matters connected with Colonial administration. But since steam and electricity draw the ends of the earth together, the Provincialist is much nearer the centre of Imperial power and brought more immediately within the range of its voice, he will watch much more closely the political movements at Home and demand more imperatively the permission to be received with the same respect and treated with the like consideration as his brother who may not have left the mother land. England has, by her policy, made the very term of Colonists to stink in the nostrils of her people. That the stronger and more wealthy ones will not long endure to bear the term of reproach, but will demand as its substitute one which will tell of a voice in national affairs is sure. When we reflect on the mighty changes which a few years have effected in the condition of nations—when we call to mind the fact that Canadian cities are now as near to Windsor as were Dublin and Edinboro' 'in days of yore,' is it too much to suppose, that similar changes must be wrought in our condition and a no less intimate consolidation of interests take place. Already through the length and breadth of the Province a cry of Nationality is heard. The longings and aspirations of a free intelligent and indomitable people are becoming more audible as they feel and understand the value of those inexhaustible stores of wealth which nature with no niggard hand has garnered for the children of an Imperial household. England will learn the import of such a cry. Her Statesmen will feel the necessity of yielding to reasonable demands and afford to British people in their Colonial homes, the right of occupying in

the parent state, a position no less favorable than that enjoyed by the residents in those Kingdoms. Canada, a giant in its infancy, now develops plainly its vast proportions and dares to dream of a future. But let us beware that we do nothing to mar this prosperity. Do not let her imitate the follies of the giddy youth, who, proud of his descent and conscious of strength, pre-empt act foolishly and rashly. Are we not at this very moment under the rod of correction? Are not pride selfishness and unwarrantable greediness receiving their reward? Let but our national and real riches be fostered and properly cared for and the end is sure.

Gentlemen: it may be presumption in one occupying an obscure position among his fellow countrymen, to offer an opinion on our country's present, much less our future. But certainly, without intending to be presumptuous, we may deplore the dependence on a foreign state, into which our own country is drifting. As you love this land of liberty—as you value the proud title by which you are known—as you hope, at no distant day, to claim the righteous reward of industry, let us look to our intrinsic interests and lay aside those internal miserable jarrings, which but disturb our harmony and distract our thoughts from those all important considerations by which alone we may accomplish our earnest desires. What have we Canadians to do with fancied lines of separation? On the broad question of national prosperity, who is willing to write himself down Upper or Lower Canadian? Neither commercial or social interests will be bound by such imaginary claims, for so surely as the waters of blue Ontario silently but irresistibly mingle with these of the mighty St. Lawrence, and St. Lawrence with the Sea, so silently and irresistibly will the people of Upper Canada mingle with those of the Lower Provinces until we become a truly homogeneous people. Let the condition of the West India Islands be a sad warning to you, see how their isolated position effects their dearest interests, for split up into many petty little Governments their weakness is acknowledged not only by themselves but by all, and is the cause of almost all the calamity that has befallen them, enabling the Imperial Government to act as they deem right rather than suffer the infant colonies to step in the direction they know to be best for themselves. Gentlemen, you have heard no doubt of the failure of that most righteous act which British justice consummated in 1838. You have seen no doubt the statement reiterated over and over again, that African emancipation has proved a failure, and that to that act is to be attributed the degradation of agricultural and commercial prosperity, which followed close on that event.—The distinguished McCulloch discoursing on it ob-

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served, " that it was to be expected that the quantity of unoccupied land and the easily satisfied wants of the black population, would detach them from the labours of the field and bring about disastrous evils to the proprietary body. Now, it is quite true that this result did follow but it was only one of the causes which produced such terrible distress in the West Indies, and particularly in Jamaica and British Guiana, but this did not apply to the other Islands of Barbadoes, Antigua, Trinidad, &c. The colonists themselves over and over again remonstrated with the Imperial Government on the injurious consequences of their partial legislation, and predicted the ruin that would surely overtake them. For they well understood that the system which in England is called Free Trade, was partial and unjust, and framed with special reference to the interests of Britain alone and did not bear reference directly to colonial interests. It must be borne in mind that while Great Britain forced on her possessions the acceptance of her own policy, she left them to a most unjust competition with the Slave-holding States in their neighborhood, whose sugars were to be admitted into the British market on the same terms, and worse than this, she kept up, and is still keeping up a base monopoly in her capital cities, for the protection of a few British Refiners; and by a prohibitory duty on refined West India sugar, prevents the colonist from entering her markets with the best manufactured article. In Sir Robert Schomburgk's excellent work we have his authority for strongly condemning this policy and he clearly points out the vacillating, tampering system which has been pursued by contrasting Sir Robert Peel's speech in answer to Lord Langdon's, Jan. 1841, and the Right Hon. Baronet's financial statement on assuming power immediately afterwards, although his measure was not in the commencement so sweeping as his predecessors in office; it laid the foundation for the admission of sugar manufactured by Slave labour. The duty of 27s per hundred weight which it was professed should merely continue during the war, terminated in 1842 when the duty on British Plantation sugar was reduced to fourteen shillings. The duty on foreign sugar and the produce of free labour met at the same time a corresponding reduction; and in consequence of certain commercial treaties with countries where Slavery still prevailed, and by which they were placed on the footing of most favored nations, some sugars produced by slave labour were now likewise admitted at this reduced duty. The revenue was compensated for the reduction of duty, both on Foreign and British plantation sugar, by the increased consumption, and this increased consumption produced a rise in the price of sugar, which proved remunerative to the planter. The powerful party in Parliament mean-

while pressed upon ministers with success, the measure for the admission of foreign sugar, whether the produce of free or slave labour; and though they resisted the abolition of all protective duties at that time, a sliding scale was introduced by which these duties were to terminate. The preceding twelve years, from '34 to '46, offer the example of an inconsistency in Imperial measures without a parallel in any previous age during so short a period. These colonies, by the value of their commerce, contributed mainly to the supremacy of Great Britain as a naval power. For years they afforded an unfailing and remunerative market for the manufactures of the mother country, and relieved Great Britain from depending for her colonial produce wholly on foreign countries. It would, therefore, have been considered the interest of Great Britain to foster and protect her colonies, but the events of the past twelve years prove the contrary, and leave it undisputed that the colonists have been hardly dealt with. If we judge from the various measures which succeeded the emancipation, we are almost led to the conclusion that it was the object of the Government to sacrifice twenty millions of money to destroy a capital of five times the amount vested by British subjects in the colonies. The fiat has been passed, and the monopoly on sugar in favour of the British colonies, was abolished at the commencement of the second half of this century. This sacrifice has been conceded to the free trade principle; and while in the abstract the political economist can but rejoice in the mighty strides with which this only true principle of commerce advances, we must regret, with the much injured colonists, that it has been employed against their interests while their commerce remains fettered by restrictions and monopolies—such were the cruel and unjust impediments thrown in the way to prevent the successful working of African emancipation, and it is to such hindrance, arising from most lamentable ignorance, that most of the wisest and best colonial measures have been thwarted—think you that any colonial secretary would have been found reckless enough to spurn the respectful remonstrances of a consolidated people? that if instead of being divided into fragmentary commands, the West India Islands could have spoken, as Canada has spoken, that either the sophistry of a Peel, or the cold selfishness of a Chandos, would have successfully crushed them? but weak, defenceless, divided as they are, oppression accomplished its work. Turn then, my brethren, turn quickly away from the contemplation of those miserable differences which would divide us into paltry cliques! cast to the winds those childish fancies which embitter and mar our prospects, and remember that we owe a holy allegiance to this, our only home, and that henceforth no one of us can claim a better

name than that of Canadian. And have we nothing to boast? Is this fair country of ours the miserable barren waste of snow which some delight to think it—does the configuration of the soil, and the wide expanse of its inland seas, the stately flow of its mighty rivers, give no promise of the high destiny which awaits those who even in the infancy of life exhibit a dangerous precocity? Can any one believe that a country which a good Creator has blessed with bountiful resources will fail to produce its impress on those who occupy and subdue it? Which one of you—says M. Cousin—believes that the land which he inhabits, the air which he breathes, the mountains or the rivers which are his neighbours, the climate, and all the impressions which result from it; in a word, that the external world are indifferent to him, and exercises upon him no influence? It would be on your part an idealism somewhat extraordinary; I imagine that you think with all the world, that the soul is distinct from, but not absolutely independent of the body. Do you think and does any one ever think that the man of the mountain has, and could have the same habits, the same character, the same ideas as the man of the plain, of the river side, of the island? Do you suppose that the man whom the fire of the Torrid Zone consumes might be called to the same destiny in this world as he who inhabits the desert icy regions of Siberia, that which is true of these two extremes ought to be equally true of two intermediate places, and of all latitudes." Again the learned Guizot in a similar strain emphatically declares the same doctrine made, however applicable to the new lords of this unrivalled continent, "America"—he observes—"lies glutted with its vegetable wealth unworked, solitary. Its immense forests, its savannas, every year cover its soil with their remains, which accumulated during the long ages of the world, form that deep bed of vegetable mould, that precious soil awaiting only the hand of man to work out all the wealth of its inexhaustible fertility. Meantime the human race of the new world, the Indian, the primitive owner of these vast territories, shows himself incapable or careless of the work; never has he opened the soil with the ploughshare to demand the treasures it encloses. Hunting is his livelihood; war his holy day. Upon a soil able to support millions of men in plenty, a few scattered inhabitants had a wretched existence in the bosom of the wilderness. Side by side with so much unused wealth, see the old world exhausted by long cultivation, overloaded with an exuberant population, full of spirit and of life, but to whom severe labour hardly gives subsistence for the day; devoured by activity, but wanting resources and space to expand itself; and you will perceive that this state of things, that a disproportion so startling cannot long exist. The gifts

God bestows on man He requires should be employed, and he takes from him who does not put it to use, the talent which has been entrusted to him. Man himself, the indigenous man bears in his whole character the ineffaceable stamp of the peculiar vegetative nature of this continent—Living continually in the shadow of those virgin forests which overspread the land he inhabits his whole nature has been modified thereby. The very copper hue of his complexion indicates that he lives not like the negro beneath the scorching sunbeams. His lymphatic temperament betrays the preponderance in his nature of the vegetable element. The Indian is of a melancholy cold and insensitive race. Foreign to our hopes, our joys, our griefs it is rarely that a tear moistens his eyes, or that a smile lights up his features. The most barbarous tortures cannot extort from him a complaint, and his stoical indifference is disturbed only by vengeance or jealousy." The forest swept before the axe of civilization opens up the fertile soil, and compels it to yield its fruits and the new race vigorous, patient of toil and with minds quickened by centuries of intellectual light, are here re-acted upon by the immensity of nature and rise but sink not in the scale of advancement. Few will feel inclined to question the general accuracy of this most wonderful law as enunciated by two such astute philosophers as Cousin and Guyot. Indeed it is self-evident that it is but a complete exemplification of one of the most extraordinary circumstances connected with the history of human life, we receive our early impressions from the east, and develop them in the west. We may truly liken it to a vast and rapid stream which, taking its rise in the far off east, flows tortuously towards the west retaining not only all that was special to it at its rise, but acquiring fresh properties and increased vigour as its course enlarges, and its wanderings are directed through newer and varying scenes.—Isolation is but the signal for degradation, cut off the unrestricted intercourse of a people, dam back the tide of human life, and like the overflowsings of a rivers banks, the water will accumulate and in accumulating, stagnate and acquire filth, until at length the uprising festering waters burst their bounds on the right hand and on the left, and form for themselves new channels. The human family must subdue the earth, they cannot linger in one region—man must invade and conquer the rude and thorn bearing soil, and if in his wanderings he should lose sight of the great object of his mission, his more obedient and less degenerate brethren are some day sure to take and occupy his place; but in all such violent and inevitable catastrophies, how much injury is effected? What horrible disasters follow on floods, what barbarous demoralization accompanies a revolution? The same power which in other ages

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declared "I have driven out the heathen and planted them in" is at this very hour accomplishing the destiny of this people as certainly and unmistakably,—for despite of all human cheeks and impediments which the short-sightedness of man may throw wittingly or unwittingly in the way; a higher than he has claimed already "the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for his possession." If as a people, we would only keep in view this grand object of our position, if we could but realize to our minds the stupendous truth, that like a former people we have become "a peculiar people" destined not only like the brutes to eat, drink and sleep, but to carry the knowledge and worship of the Creator of the Universe, and to plant inheritors for his kingdom in the furthest ends of the earth, we should feel at once how utterly impotent and wicked it was to cut ourselves off from full and perfect fellowship with the whole christian world or to neglect the privileges which have been given us. Looking then with such feelings to the vast and plentiful territory which stretches itself across this northern continent, who can for a moment doubt what our future must be, although perhaps not one among us can picture to himself a tithe of the splendour and greatness which shall adorn that future. It is enough for us shortsighted mortals to see sufficiently into coming events to know and feel that if we forfeit not the inheritance which we have obtained from our father-land that all the greatness and prosperity which has dignified and will ever maintain the European name will stand forth in magnified proportions in the occupiers of a soil where the hand of nature has left stupendous evidence of its wisdom, power and goodness. Surely in addressing you it were a needless task to enumerate, did even time permit, the incalculable resources of this Province. The old world has found out to some extent the value of that profitless snow drift which lies to the north of the great Republic—just as they will discover the importance of that other frozen, barren, worthless region—where wolves and bears are alone said to prosper, and where the buffalo obtains his rugged coat. Looking first to the rich and virgin soil we follow but the natural course of human events. if we turn to it and invite its bounty, the occupier must first supply his own immediate necessities and then of the overplus spare to his neighbour. Agriculture, then, becomes of primary importance to every new won land, and always receives the anxious care and merits the prayers of the nation as of the husbandman. But have we an instance of a nation rising in the scale to primary importance; by occupying itself wholly in this one pursuit, is it acting in obedience to our manifest duty to improve only one talent if ten are committed to us. Were

our fields of iron and mines of copper deposited in vast extent now here and now there, meant as mere wonders, to amuse the imagination of the mineralogist or geologist. Has water been gathered together in inland seas, linked as it were in serial connection through the country's length, for no other purpose than to furnish an element in which a few fish may sport? Was the broad surface of Canada covered with forest merely as a covert for foxes, or as fuel for a sparse population? Is there no lesson of instruction, or is there no hidden meaning in the gush and flow of the foaming torrent as it leaps adown its broken and precipitous bed, telling us of a power second only to that of steam? No one surely will for an instant suppose that all these attributes of national prosperity are meant to be left unemployed. If this be so—then it is for us, the deeply interested possessors of so much that may be turned to our prosperity, to see that such treasures be not wasted—above all things it is but an imperative obligation on us, it is alone consistent with patriotism to develop to the full all that has been entrusted to our care. Now, admitting this to be true, it may be well to ask ourselves whether, taking into consideration our acknowledged resources, we are occupying that position which it should be our aim to attain, and which will, no doubt, be one day attained if we neglect not our advantages. Gentlemen, do I not address an Anglo-French alliance? Do I not now appeal to the sensitive feelings of two proud and lofty natures when I declare that it is inconsistent for them to crouch beneath the frown of a conqueror or to wear fetters on hands which will never grasp anything but the conquering sword, and over whose heads shall float none other than their national flag. We desire to kindle no party flame or to evoke a single sentiment which would tend to disturb the thought of perfect unity which we have been striving to inculcate when we simply direct attention to the simultaneous movement which has taken place in Australia and amongst ourselves with reference to a Federal Union of neighboring Provinces. Is this no sign of the times? Does it not point to a mighty necessity—the drawing together of a people for mutual advancement? The birth of a nationality and evidence of a determination to take our stand either as a separate nation or part of the great and mighty one of which we are only now a dependency. The agricultural element, great, mighty as it is, becomes alone incapable of furthering our destiny. We are being slowly, it may be, but still driven to a contemplation of our resources, and to discover that our forests, our fisheries, our minerals, our furs, our metals, our productions, are required by our own and foreign people. Now, why is it that with such ample means at our command we are literally occupying a weak and inferior

position, having but one, or at most, two markets to which we consign our productions, having taken in this respect a retrograde course. We are part of an Empire whose mercantile marine is unrivalled, we see our merchant flag flying in every port of the civilized and uncivilized world. We have merchants whose cultivated and practical minds teach them the acquisition of princely fortunes, and yet we allow ourselves to be restricted in our commercial intercourse and pour the whole of our abundance into the lap of the nearest neighbour who will relieve us but too readily of it. Now as one opposite illustration is as valuable as a dozen, permit me once again to allude to a field of enterprise lying within your reach, one which you once largely occupied, but which you have now entirely allowed to pass into other hands. Looking to the fact that your population already occupying a large extent of land which in giving its rich return, seeks to push its conquests westward, still, Commissioners who have explored, and venturous settlers, already occupants of the advance posts, tell you of a fertile empire, nearly as large as half Europe, waiting the husbandman's plough to bring forth the golden grain. A mid-way settlement is being planted where the mineral riches of the region must sooner or later be gathered, to be brought by willing hands for the supply of territories which must be reared to meet the demands of your internal trade alone—your people then going West and your waters flowing East tell all the world that a great and powerful nation is to reign where the bountiful hand of the Creator has fashioned for it so great a kingdom—now if no other stimulus to industry and enterprise existed, we find that encouragement enough is held out to us to carry out those more primitive arts and manufactures and to develop and reclaim a profitable external trade within the limits of Britain's world-wide domain. To show that this is no idle dream, no ideal phantasy uttered to amuse an audience, it is proposed to call your earnest attention to the value of the colonial trade which is carried on with the West India Islands alone, and still further to prevent the mind being carried away unduly by the magnitude of numbers, to use the returns from a single Island and that one in point of size amongst the smallest; premising that as far as relates to their commercial relations, all the Islands are in the same position.

Barbadoes now depends upon America for a supply of food, and for the most ordinary manufactures, as an inspection of the following table arranged by Schomburgk will amply show:

Comparative Statement of the external Commerce of Barbados during the years 1841 to 1845 inclusive:—

A. VALUE OF IMPORTS.									
Year.	From G. Britain.	W. Indies.	E. Amc. Colonies.	Elsewhere	U. States.	For'n States.	Total.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1841	51,080 11 7*	28,738 11 8	75,488 3 11	2,580 0 5	121,955 0 9	36,895 9 6	317,338 5 0		
1842	33,805 16 9*	28,743 15 8	69,352 7 5	3,053 0 0	108,434 13 4	33,023 2 5	276,418 15 7		
1843	359,413 5 0†	21,869 18 8	53,406 9 2	2,042 15 6	162,364 8 2	18,034 13 6	617,131 10 0		
1844	338,381 15 3	23,558 3 7	39,742 18 11	.....	161,252 13 7	41,475 8 6	604,410 18 10		
1845	358,795 19 4	35,185 9 0	89,343 12 7	36,807 16 0	188,786 15 5	23,548 8 4	682,368 0 8		

* This amount does not include the value of British manufacture or produce, as at that time no specific return was made of these articles, which are duty free.
† This and the following amounts includes the value of British manufactured goods, which since 1843, have been specified in the annual returns.

B. VALUE OF EXPORTS.									
Year.	To Great Britain.	West Indies.	B. N. Am. Colonies.	Elsewhere.	U. States.	For'n States.	Total.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1841	408,984 12 2	115,834 9 4	751 7 0	.....	2532 4 2	3769 14 0	531,873 6 9		
1842	718,818 9 8	134,514 15 0	121 15 0	.....	289 9 6	2967 6 7	855,712 15 9		
1843	539,756 11 6	119,269 11 8	34 4 0	.....	1548 2 5	7647 11 1	668,256 0 8		
1844	539,674 15 7	134,799 0 11	152 9 5	140 0 0	1238 4 4	4996 0 7	681,000 10 10		
1845	548,527 9 9	129,193 15 9	2821 13 4	.....	1750 14 6	9016 2 8	691,309 16 0		

Comparative Statement of the Number of Ships which arrived in the Port of Bridgetown in Barbados during the Years 1841 to 1845 inclusive:—

SHIPS INWARDS.											
Year.	Great Britain.		Brit. Colonies.		United States.		Foreign States.		Total.		
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Men.
1841	102	25017	407	26089	136	20940	93	6255	738	78301	5648
1842	86	22280	468	31734	132	21256	86	5779	772	81049	5987
1843	116	27166	527	33591	219	34280	91	8893	958	104506	7298
1844	98	24490	444	22910	174	29382	105	9405	821	86187	6311
1845	92	23965	475	24585	199	34098	122	11894	888	94542	6819

SHIPS OUTWARDS.											
Year.	Great Britain.		Brit. Colonies.		United States.		Foreign States.		Total.		
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Men.
1841	56	14720	465	31007	40	6774	181	28299	742	80800	5792
1842	68	18306	488	35027	37	7862	146	19017	739	80212	5741
1843	78	21088	569	35122	82	13358	159	22936	888	92504	6820
1844	77	20628	535	36475	46	8894	151	19328	808	85325	6280
1845	82	21089	537	33056	57	10312	205	29316	881	93773	6679

Remarks.—The great difference between the tonnage inwards and the tonnage outwards, is accounted for by the fact, that in the return inwards is included the tonnage of many vessels, chiefly American, which on coming here to look for a market, and not finding one, have at once set sail for another port, without effecting any clearance at the Custom House.

Trade with Foreign States in Europe.—From what has been before observed, it cannot be expected that the trade with foreign European states can be considerable, as long as the British colonies stand in an unnatural position towards them. The value of imports (which includes those from the foreign colonies) amounted in 1845 to £23,548 8s. 4d., and showed a decrease as compared with 1844 of £17,927 sterling. Wines, spirits, fancy goods, fruits and oil have been the chief articles of import. In 1845, with the exception of a few packages of pickles, succedae, etc., there was no export of any produce of the island to any of the foreign possessions in Europe.

Trade with the British Colonies in North America.—The importance of this trade rests upon

the supply of one of the most essential articles of the common necessities of life, namely salted and dried fish, which has become an indispensable article of food, not only among the labouring classes, but we may almost say generally. The value of the whole imports from the British Colonies in North America amounted in 1845 to £39,343 12s. 7d. sterling; of this sum, imports to the value of £29,637 17s. 6d. consisted of fish. Lumber, staves, etc., are next in importance, but the *British Colonies cannot compete with the United States in these articles.* The exports are very trifling, and amounted only to £2821 13s. 4d. in 1845, of which molasses formed an item of £2303 18s. 4d. The decrease in the number of vessels and their tonnage is very considerable if compared

with 1843, when the tonnage amounted to 12,000 tons. During the two subsequent years it decreased from 2000 to 3000 tons

State or Port from whence sailed.	1841.		1842.		1843.		1844.		1845.	
	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
St. Andrew's, N. B.	7	1593	9	1609	7	1215	6	1056	7	1710
St. John's, N. B.	7	1269	1	251	6	917	7	1184	4	493
St. Stephen's	15	3841	11	2106	14	4111	7	1293	6	816
Halifax	17	1500	16	1440	5	499	11	914	9	976
Yarmouth, N. S.	2	198	11	1122	11	1093	8	1292	5	405
Newfoundland	21	3043	34	4595	27	3819	26	3786	26	3677
Liverpool, N. S.	3	262	3	649	3	192	1	155	4	495
Quebec	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	155
	72	11706	85	11772	74	12001	66	9630	62	8727

4. *Trade with the United States.*—The inhabitants of Barbadoes are mainly dependent for the common necessities of life upon the United States of America. The cultivation of sugar has hitherto yielded such advantages over the production of articles of food for the support of the inhabitants that the proprietors of the land have generally preferred buying provisions from other countries to raising them upon their own soil.

Previous to the year 1774, the British provinces, which now form the United States, seemed to be the natural storehouses, where the sugar colonies might procure their food in return for their produce. Their commodious situation, and the circumstance that the population had the same origin and language, and that their country was an appurtenance of the same Crown, facilitated such an intercourse. Circumstances however changed when those provinces declared their independence, and and the succeeding war interrupted all intercourse with the West Indian Colonies. Then it was that the Barbadoes planter found cause to regret his dependence for the food of his laborers upon a distant country. But the dependence did not rest there; those very provinces which were engaged in war with the mother country, had likewise provided the planter with the necessary materials for his buildings, and staves and hoops for packages to ship his produce in; and, these resources being suddenly withheld, the planters were put to great inconvenience, and even distress spread over the island. Upon the recognition of the independence of the United States, friendly relations were entered into, and the commercial intercourse between the colonies and the American provinces was restored. But these friendly relations were of short duration, and on several occasions the ports were shut, and the consequence was that a scarcity almost amounting to famine prevailed in Barbados for want of the usual supply of food from the United States.

While I must refer for a more detailed account of these occurrences to future pages, I would here only observe that the same relations still prevail; Barbados depends as much upon America for the supply of food as previous to 1773; and I cannot forget, when occurrences recently threatened an interruption of the friendly intercourse between Great Britain and the United States, with what anxiety the inhabitants looked to the future, being well aware how little food their own island yielded them. It is a question of vital importance whether such a state of things ought not to be remedied. It appears to be a tempting of Providence, which is the more palpable to the eye when such suffering prevails in Ireland,—a country where assistance is close at hand. What would be the distress in Barbados under similar circumstances?

The commerce with the United States rests upon a most unnatural basis. The imports amount annually, taking an average of five years (from 1841 to 1845), to £148,538 14s. sterling, and in 1845 they amounted to £188,686 1s. 5d., while the exports during that period cover only £1,471; the excess, amounting to from £140,000 to £190,000 sterling, is carried away in specie or in bills of exchange upon London. The value of the imports from the United States in 1845, consisting of bread, flour, corn and grain, meal, rice, salted meat, &c. amounted to nearly £125,000 sterling; consequently every inhabitant in Barbados contributes upon an average one pound sterling towards the payment for his food from that country. The increase in the value of imports in 1845 above 1844 amounts to £27,434 sterling; that of exports to £512 sterling. The carrying trade is naturally in the hands of the United States, and the vessels employed are generally of small burden, commonly making two and sometimes three voyages in a year.

I have omitted, says Sir Robert, "to dwell particularly on the large annual importation of horses; the number is almost incredible were it not proved by official statements. These horses are mostly imported from the United States, at a considerable expense and the continued necessity of replenishing the stock, attracted in 1842, the attention of the Legislature. The Finance Committee in the House of Assembly in Nov., 1832, observed, "The extraordinary and almost incredible number of horses annually imported into this Island well deserves the consideration of the Legislature, with a view to the adoption of such measures as may be likely to check the heavy loss occasioned by the great mortality which takes place among them. From 9th April 1832, to the 30th June 1842, the number of horses imported amounted to 8318, giving a yearly average of 924. The number of horses returned to the treasury in 1841 was 4052, so that the mortality among these animals reaches the frightful amount of 25 per cent, requiring the renewal of the whole stock once in four years," during the three subsequent years, 1843 to 1845, 2057 were imported." The present agricultural, commercial and financial resources are as follows, the produce of sugar, and molasses, amounted upon an average of five years (1841 to 1845) to 21,051 hogsheads, 1500 tierces, and 930 barrels of sugar, and 4720 puncheons of molasses, the number of ships which entered the port of Bridgetown upon an average during that period were 835 of 88,917 tons manned 6413 seamen. The value of exports upon a similar average amounted to £683,630 6s. sterling, the revenue upon an average of five years to £76,852 9s. sterling, and since this there has been a much greater increase.

Now taking the trade of this small Island with

the United States, we find that the imports amount annually, taking an average of five years from 1841 to 1845—to £148,538 14s. 5d. sterling, and in 1845 they amounted to £188,686 1s. 5d. while the exports during that period to the United States cover only £1471. The excess amounting to from £140,000 to £190,000 sterling, is carried away in specie or in bills of exchange upon London. The value of imports from the United States in 1845, consisting of bread flour, corn, grain, meal, rice, salted meat, &c., amounted to nearly £125,000 sterling; the carrying trade is in the hands of the United States, and the vessels employed are generally of small burden, commonly making two and sometimes three voyages in the year.

Of the trade with the British Colonies we find the value of the whole imports from all the British North American Colonies to be in 1845, A.D., £39,343 12s. 7d. sterling; of this sum, imports to the value of £29,637 17s. 6d. consisted of fish, lumber, staves, &c., are next in importance, but the British Colonies can't compete with the United States. The decrease in the number of vessels and their tonnage is very considerable if compared with 1843, when the tonnage amounted to 12,000, during the two subsequent years it decreased some 3000 tons. It will be observed that we have limited our observations to the importance of the commercial position of a single Island among a group of much larger ones; the real magnitude of the trade of the whole of those British Colonies must surely be a most desirable subject for contemplation by a people having all those means at their command which would make that trade their own. This Province at no trifling expense responded to the invitation of the Emperor of the French, and sent to the Exhibition in Paris a collection of products and manufactures, which astonished Europe, and proved the innate capabilities of Canada. The author of that excellent report "Canada at the Universal Exhibition," says, the most beneficial results must inevitably arise from the knowledge conveyed to the whole of Europe of the resources of our beautiful country, from this popularity, created in the minds of all the transatlantic nations, from this interest everywhere inspired, with respect to the affairs of Canada. It would necessarily be difficult, if not impossible, to predict what will be the results as regards commerce and emigration; all that will in a great measure depend upon the *energy of our leading merchants*, and to a certain extent also upon the action of the Legislature." After having achieved this triumph shall it be said in another decade, that Canada, notwithstanding her ability to do much, has neglected all her resources and spent her energies in domestic broils, squandering her means on her own representatives, who seem determined to do little else

than gratify their own paltry and disgusting selfishness. Rather let us hear that our energies being quickened not only by the knowledge of our inherent power, but even by reverses, we improved those resources which have won for us such distinction, increasing both our commercial and political status. In the dawn of all great and important enterprises experience proves that unforeseen events darken and mar the original plan, which frail human foresight originated: if therefore in constructing a highway through the country, perfection was not at once attained, if there should be much to condemn in the management and conduct of the stupendous undertaking which has given an impetus to the commercial and agricultural interests, which it would have taken years by any other mode to have accomplished, we may certainly deal lightly with the errors of those of who had the daring and skill to conceive and carry out our railway system which gives such facilities for the transportation of produce and products of every kind at all and every season of the year. With this highway finished can we for a for a moment suppose that the enterprising merchant will long consent to be limited to a single market! "Naval power and navigation, it has been said, are the children of commerce," and hence the shipping interest of a country is a pretty good criterion of its commercial greatness. There cannot be a doubt but that our commerce is great enough, there is strong reason to doubt our discreetness in conducting it. If we do not our-elves seek to establish connexions with other markets, we surely will be lag-guards in a race in which the competition is keen. The American who has always been alive to the value of market seeking, carries out this favorite doctrine of his, as admirably portrayed by Halliburton in his Sam Slick, not only in vending clocks but in vending his corn and salted meats, his corn brooms and buckets. Now that we, in the compass of our own domain, have the ready means of access to the sea-board, the riches of the bountiful West must flow Eastward and demand a ready distribution over the world. With the rapid increase of external commerce must come a corresponding increase in our mercantile navy, and as a further consequence, increased importance to the Canadian element of the empire—to this climax we are fast hastening. Are we preparing ourselves for that conflict of opinions, the decision of which will seal our destiny? Gentlemen, we surely have spoken the true sentiments of Canada when we declared it to be impossible for us to be dragged as inferiors at the heels of any nation. We are haughty enough to demand that we shall be, when ripe for the change, received as an integral portion of a great Empire, the shadows of coming events have been strongly cast in the Imperial Par-

liament, and outside that deliberative body the question of colonial representation has been opened up for discussion; and circumstances are daily transpiring which concur to bring the subject within a narrower issue. Had the great O'Connell been less selfish—if he had cast his eye towards the colonial possessions and summoned from their lethargy the millions of British who expatriated to these distant limits found themselves bereft of all that could possibly render them free-men or stimulate their minds to the accomplishment of mighty deeds, who can doubt but that he would have discovered a system of government which would have given to Ireland the management of its own affairs and to the Colonies a position not inferior to that which was claimed for Ireland. Scotland, under some of her nobles, has lately raised what was wont to be called "the Irish howl" and shows how impossible it is to homologate separate powers, and from the same central point apply them beneficially to all and every purpose. The affairs of a mighty nation are themselves of a magnitude sufficient to engage the brightest intellects, and while man possesses a limited range of mental power it will be necessary to restrain his intellectual work within certain areas. British statesmen will discover this in time, and the elasticity of the British Constitution will permit that wholesome change to be effected, which in other States has to be achieved only by revolution. What think you is the real import of that cry for confederation which has startled the national ear—commenced in Canada, caught up in the West Indies, and echoed in Australia? Confederate the colonies, bind as it were the bundle of sticks into a compact form, and how long think you will the larger old faggot remain standing by itself? Confederate the colonies of England and as a necessary result the Imperial Parliament itself must undergo a change, for the system of local legislation will be applied to the Islands of Britain and her Imperial representatives be really what they ought to the representatives returned by a whole empire. If then Canada is to be placed in such harmony with her parent state it must be our part to contribute to hasten its consummation for we have either this or one alternative. We are next door neighbors not to the parental roof it is true, but next to our mother's son, and altho' one may dislike the arrangements of his household and feel inclined to quarrel with some of his peculiar notions, yet if he proffers us a seat at his own board and admits us into his family as an equal, feelings of propriety and self-respect might tempt us to prefer the hospitality of that brother's house to a seat in an out-house at the old homestead—but from what we know of our own home and its affections, we feel that every kindly sentiment and every fond desire to strengthen the silken cord of affection

which binds our hearts to that heaven blessed race will awaken in them still stronger desires to bind closer those cords until we do truly become one with them. And looking at the vast undertakings that are being accomplished here, we are all persuaded that now this shore is joined by the electric chain to England's hallowed coast the symbol of our own union has indeed been laid. Looking yet to the future and judging from the past we note the still westward tendencies of man, and already pressing onwards, we, who are the advanced body of the moving masses, are not only startling but driving out the occupants of a territory in whose womb lies concealed the wealth and power to build up a people as numerous as half of Europe; already the busy, restless invading mind has discovered that along the old savage hunting grounds, the true highway from East to West, is to be opened out, and conscious of the strength and attributes of mind, we realize the inexhaustible treasures of Eastern nations streaming down the mighty highroad of a mighty empire. Recollect that in this particular we are not mis-calculating our strength, for it is now matter of history that we alone possess the coveted route to the east, and that a barren desolate ir reclaimable waste bids our brethren on the other side to turn their footsteps farther south. I regret that I have not been able to refer to a speech delivered by the great American statesman, Mr. Clay, in 1847 or 1848, but any one who would take the trouble to reflect on the glowing thoughts which found expression on the occasion, must feel that his foresight was not only extraordinary but true, for even then he pointed out that England had now arrived at that turning point in her history which necessitates the consolidation of her Empire—she has enough to do in order to strengthen and improve her Eastern possession; America must deal with the Western continent." We seem day by day to be moving towards the fulfillment of these predictions. Civilization and christianity are steadily encircling the heathen nations, and bringing them more and more face to face with the banner of the cross. Imperial Russia with stealthy step steals round the distant frontier of clever, but infatuated China. France, with a new instinct, seizes one entry into Africa's gloomy territory, and Britain another—America accomplishing her ends with no less vigorous intent, seizes the Texan soil, keeps her eye fixed immovably on expiring Mexico, and waits calmly but resolutely the time when the broken and wretched inhabitants of imbecile, degenerate South American tribal states shall be enclosed within her tropical embrace. And is England idle all the while? Alas! how terrific have her trials proved—years of negligence have produced their natural results—a mistaken policy has plunged her into an intestine war, and drenched

her soil with the blood of some of the best and bravest of her children. That blood cries aloud for vengeance; but, my friends, let it be the vengeance of a christian nation, and not the butchery of a heathen horde. The dastardly Mussulman must be made to lick the dust, but let it be over the blood stained spot, on which shall stand the christian temple, whereon is opened the fountain for all uncleanness. The wretch who now refuses to eat the fat of bulls and goats, but gloats over the tortured body of his own kind, must be taught to know and feel that his religion is brutal, and his acts the promptings of evil. What so terrible as the pangs of conscience; and think you that in years to come the Sepoys' children will not desire even to blot out their fathers' name. India may stagger beneath the blow which has come upon her, but brought closer to the Imperial Throne, and governed on the principle that can alone save a people, she will be more than ever the strong right hand of British power. We then are deeply interested in these mighty events; they are but the terrible tempests which burst the opposing barriers of progress, and leave free a path through which the future may roll easily. It is simply impossible that we can remain indifferent spectators of christian progress, and perhaps sooner than most of us anticipate we shall be active participators in the work. It is for the mass of the people to look to their own interests, to frown down all attempts that may be made to disturb and retard their progress by the unusual and violent agitation of questions of internal policy, which neither party is capable of solving to their mutual satisfaction, and to demand of those who may be called to guide and develop their resources, that the policy of the country be so directed as to turn those resources to the most profitable account. Union will bring us strength; it will bring to our aid calm and unbiased minds—it will remove to a wider and less prejudiced arena questions which the few immediately interested in cannot satisfactorily discuss. Above all, it will consolidate our mercantile interests, and make a scattered, disjointed series of petty provinces parts of a mighty Empire. Ours, gentlemen, is a glorious heritage; we belong to a race whose deeds of high enterprise give lustre to the British name, and binds us to that glorious land from which our fathers sprang.

That land whose beacon-banners blaze
Our mountain coast along.

How can we, the legitimate heirs of so glorious a history, consent to cast it away? How dare we for one moment turn our thoughts away from a home, whose walls are covered with emblems of glory, and within whose precincts truth and justice reign.